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CULTURE OF MEDICINAL PLANTS INCREASES

The culture of medicinal plants is a new and important branch of the Yugoslav economy as a source of raw materials both for domestic use and for export. Enterprises for the planned culture and gathering of medicinal plants have been organized in every republic to supervise their culture and trade.

Since the war the "Jugokamomila" (Yugoslav Camomile) Enterprise was formed in Novi Sad to supervise the turnover and culture of medicinal plants in Serbia. Last fall the enterprise set up an inspection and selection station for medicinal plants near Novi Sad, the first of its kind in the Balkans. Three years ago a federal commission was formed for standardization of medicinal plants.

One of the most important medicinal plants is camomile, which grows in the salt marshes of the Vojvodina, in poor soil, along roads, and in fields in Backa and the Banat. When processed by itself or mixed with other medicinal herbs, camomile can be used for the manufacture of many kinds of medicinal products, for camomile tea, and especially in the distilling of ethereal oils. It is much in demand both in Yugoslavia and abroad.

Before the war camomile was exported to Germany and Hungary at a very low price and, after cleaning and packaging, was sold as "German camomile" or "Hungarian camomile". Since the organization of the "Jugokamomila" Enterprise, camomile is exported as a Yugoslav product.

Last year there were 27 drying plants in the Vojvodina, most of them in the Banat. This year 10 new ones are in operation, including one each in Senta and Zablje in northern Backa. This year facilities are adequate for cleaning, drying, and packaging the entire crop without delay.

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